released even a single rupee this year to Karnataka for carrying out reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has committed to fund the State's power sector reforms; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government to withheld clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There is no World Bank Power Reform Project in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) The question do not arise.

Committee on electrification of rural areas

†874. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted for electrification of rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has formulated any scheme for electrification of all the villages in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Distributed generation has been identified as one of the technologies for ensuring supply of power in rural areas by way of setting up of small generating units based on a variety of local fuels alongwith localized distribution. For successful implementation of distributed generation with the involvement of local entrepreneurs and agencies, the Rural Electric Supply Technology Mission (REST) under the auspices of the Ministry of Power was constituted on 11th September, 2002.

The main purpose of this Mission would be to evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas which can be managed by local

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

institutions like village panchayats and NGOs; identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects; suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission, and to access fund requirements for the next two Plans.

Power unit in Nabi Nagar, Bihar

†875. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up power generating unit in Nabi Nagar in Aurangabad district of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Presently there is proposal to set up an indigenous coal based power project of 1000 MW capacity in Joint Venture at Nabi Nagar, District Aurangabad, Bihar between National Thermal Power Corporation and Railways with the objective to meet the traction and non-traction requirement of power for Railways. The setting up of the project shall depend on establishment of its techno-economic viability through site specific studies and preparation of requisite Detailed Feasibility Report in this regard.

Thermal Power Station in Barh, Bihar

†876. SHRI GAYA SINGH:Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a big Thermal Power Station is being set up in Barh in Bihar by NTPC;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the number of labourers who will be employed on its completion?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.